Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing system for producing clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis comprising, means for supplying a multi-level digital representation of the image, means for identifying predetermined objects in the image and supplying data defining their locations, means for deriving segmentation data from the multi-level digital representation wherein the means for deriving the segmentation data from the multi-level representation comprises means for comparing differences in background data to derive the segmentation data, means for combining the data defining the locations of objects with ~~the~~ said segmentation data, means for clustering the predetermined objects into groups for each segmented region and means for supplying data relating to the groups for subsequent analysis.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An image processing system according to claim 1 comprising~~ An image processing system for producing clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis comprising, means for supplying a multi-level digital representation of the image, means for identifying predetermined objects in the image and supplying data defining their locations, first segmentation means for deriving segmentation data from the multi-level digital representation, second segmentation means receiving the multi-level digital representation of the image and the data identifying the locations of the objects in the image ~~to derive~~ for deriving segmentation data relating to differences in the data of the multi-level digital representation from ~~the~~ said objects,

~~and~~means for combining the data defining the locations of
objects with said segmentation data, wherein the
~~segmenting~~combining means receives ~~this~~the segmentation data
and further segments the data defining locations of the object
image in dependence on this segmentation data, and means for
clustering the predetermined objects into groups for each
segmented region and means supplying data relating to the
groups for subsequent analysis.

3.   (Currently Amended) An image processing system
according to claim 1 in which the objects are text objects.

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Currently Amended) An image processing system
according to ~~claim 4~~claim 1 in which the background data
comprises colour data.

6.   (Currently Amended) An image processing system
according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 1 in which the background data
comprises greyscale data.

7.   (Currently Amended) An image processing system
according to claim 2, in which the second segmentation means
derives the segmentation data thereof from the colour of the
objects.

8.   (Currently Amended) An image processing system
according to claim 2, in which the second segmentation means
derives the segmentation data thereof from the greyscale level
of the objects.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing images
to produce clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis

comprising the steps of supplying a multi-level digital representation of the image, identifying predetermined objects in the image, supplying data defining the locations of these predetermined objects, deriving segmentation data for the image from the multi-level digital representation which step further comprises comparing differences in background data to determine the segmentation data, combining the data defining the locations of the objects with the segmentation data, clustering the objects into groups for each segmented region, and supplying data relating to the groups for subsequent analysis.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 9 further comprising the steps of~~ A method for processing images to produce clusters of related objects for subsequent analysis comprising the steps of supplying a multi-level digital representation of the image, identifying predetermined objects in the image, supplying data defining the locations of these predetermined objects, deriving segmentation data for the image from the multi-level digital representation, receiving the multi-level digital representation of the image and the data identifying the location of the objects in the image and deriving additional segmentation data relating to differences in the data of the multi-level representation for ~~the~~ said objects, ~~and~~ combining the data defining the locations of the objects with the segmentation data, wherein the ~~segmenting~~combining step further segments the data defining the locations of objects in dependence on ~~this~~the additional segmentation data and clustering the objects into groups for each segmented region, and supplying data relating to the groups for subsequent analysis.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, in which the objects are text objects.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 11~~ claim 9 in which the background data comprises colour data.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 9 in which the background data comprises greyscale data.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)